



The regular town board meeting, being held at 175 West Jefferson Street, Joliet Township government offices, Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. was called to order by Supervisor Angel Contreras and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The following official business was transacted:

The Deputy Clerk called the roll as follows:

TRUSTEES:	Cesar Escutia	Present
	Karl Ferrell	Present
	Suzanna Ibarra	Present
	Raymond F. Slattery	Present
SUPERVISOR:	Angel Contreras	Present
CLERK:	Deputy Rachel Ventura	Present
OTHER OFFICIALS:	Hwy Commissioner Vince Alessio	Present

ALSO PRESENT: Township Attorney Brian Wellner, Township Senior Liaison Jeff Wallace, Township Finance Director Ivan Diaz, Assessor Jim Brenzewski, Animal Control Director Whitney McGill, and General Assistance Director Patricia Veneziano.

Approval of the Minutes:

Regular Town Minutes/Sep 14, 2021: Trustee Ibarra motioned to approve the minutes of the September 14th, 2021 Regular Town Board Meeting by stating, "I will make a motion to approve and I have one comment that Rachel did an excellent job explicitly writing those minutes up. I was impressed. Thank you. So I'll make a motion to approve the minutes." Seconded by Trustee Escutia. A roll call vote was taken.¹

Public Comment: None

New Business:

Public Hearing: Road District, Vacation portion of Cleveland Street. Trustee Ibarra moved to recess the regular township board meeting to enter into the Public Hearing for the Joliet Township Road District, seconded by Trustee Slattery. A roll call vote was taken.²

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 5:08 p.m. The attorney explained this was final action based on the decision of the Highway Commissioner. The Township could choose to ratify his decision but no action was required by them. The Supervisor then moved onto new business and reports.

¹ Roll call vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Escutia, Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

² Roll call vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Escutia, Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

Reports:

General Assistance Director Patricia Venziano: Sue and Patricia had a zoom meeting with the Social Security office in Joliet to go over questions we may have about social security disability and SSI claims. They were able to address concerns that regarded their clients. Patricia asked if they had a return date to the office and at this time they still do not have a date that the offices will be opening to the public and prefer everything be handled online. G.A. was given a primary point of contact so any claims that they assist clients with will be directed to our point of contact and processed by that point person giving the Township the ability to follow up on claims.

Patricia attended the monthly meeting for the Continuum of Care with this month's guest speaker from Aunt Martha's. Aunt Martha's now has a full time outreach person working in Joliet to concentrate on the issues of homeless youth. Aunt Martha's has a block of hotel rooms to house homeless youth while they work towards a more permanent solution to their homelessness. G.A. finalized some plans for the education symposium, which Ron O'Connor now wants to hold again in person so we will be doing the symposium in person with a focus group of presenters afterwards. O'Connor has retired from the regional office of Education and Patricia will be taking over as the Chair of this committee until such time that his replacement feels comfortable filling his shoes in this position. The current NOFA from HUD is out and we are anticipating that funding for homeless services will be 100% of what it was in the past year.

Patricia presented at the zoom meeting for Governors State University. The zoom presentation was well received and well attended. Sue attended an outreach event at Hope Manor. The event was called a stand down which is designed to provide veterans with items that they need and bridging them to needs. This was the first event at Hope Manor. They brought over the homeless veterans that they VA had housed over in area motels so that they could explore the resources available to them. The event was well attended.

There's been an uptick in phone calls since the eviction moratorium has ended. People making applications is very slow right now because what people owe in back rent is so that what they offer hardly put a dent in what they owe. They refer them to the other agencies as needed. Community Concerns is backed up for two months. Medical closet is going well.

Mr. Jeff Wallace, Joliet Township Senior Liaison: St Joes Seniors met 9/15 with 53 members were in attendance and guest Alicia. President Rich Churnovic open the meeting with a few remarks. All officers gave their monthly reports. St Raymond's seniors met 9/16 with around 60 members and guest Suzanna. President Glenda Gumina welcomed everyone since their last meeting was 3/24/20. Retired Teachers Association met on 9/22 with 60 members including guest Suzanna, Alicia, and Rachel. Earl Peterson ran the meeting because Ray Kaufman was on vacation. Senator John Conner (D) 43rd District talked about what was going on in Springfield about balancing the budget, and trying to keep up state pension funding. The next speaker was Dr Karen Pastell, audiologist who owns PraiseLand audiology LLC. Moose seniors met 10/4 with 30 members. They discussed the next Four Winds bus trip and the Park September dinner. Widow and Widowers met on 10/9 with 25 members. The deacon had a few comments then introduced Officer Bob Klacher from Joliet Police Department. He discussed how fraud and scams work. He said some of very hard to prosecute. He also answered questions. Jeff mentioned the Township Board could be voting on the senior grants. They also had Natalie Weeks HHC, R3 case management informational talked about restore, reinvest, and renew program. Desmond Mare from Oak Street Health said he would like to see seniors before they get sick. St Paul's Paulites

had 60 members in attendance. Jeff took door prizes, flyers, senior services newsletter to all meetings and spoke about the services the township provides at all the meetings. Jeff also commented how much he enjoys the work.

Animal Control Director Whitney McGill: Whitney introduced herself as she just came back from maternity leave last week. Becky is now off as she has a new grandson. Everything has been steady. A little less in cats adoptions than in the past. They are having trouble with the vans. The white van has warning lights being looked at and the blue van is getting a new transmission. They are looking for 1-2 more. The Oct promotion where everything is covered is going well. They have 6 dogs available and 22 cats. A long-term dog was adopted. Intergovernmental Agreements are all updated. Becky will fill her in with all the details when she gets back. Trustee Ibarra said "congrats on the baby". Supervisor Contreras said "welcome back".

Finance Director Ivan Diaz: Other than the normal expenses, the phone systems have all been updated. The township will save about \$400 a month now compared to the old phone bill.

Highway Commissioner Alessio: We have our road projects where they are laying the shoulder stone and finishing the project. Cleaning out drains so when the rain comes it drains properly for the residents. That's the biggest thing we are spending our time on is keeping the roads clean and picking up trash. Trustee Slattery asked if PT Fuero had gotten started on the project. Alessio said yes they were a little late but they got it finished.

Supervisor Angel Contreras: Contreras spoke about the cemetery report from Paul. Everything has been upgraded like the phones. We get a lot of genealogy requests. Now that the phones are upgraded he's gotten about two dozen requests. The next thing is working on signage at the cemetery. So people know what part of the cemetery they are in. This is something simple that will help people navigate where to go.

Assessor Jim Brenczewski: They are currently in the hearing season now they are preparing their defenses. The first hearing is tomorrow at 9:30am. They had 104 complaints. Which keeps you busy but with 33,000 parcels, this is good. Everything is going well.

Trustee Ibarra "I have something to say really quickly. I saw the general assistance ad. Are you guys interviewing for that yet?" Angel Contreras "Yes". Ibarra continued, "Can I say something about that? We have an opportunity; I typed it out on my phone because I didn't want to forget what I wanted to say; we have an opportunity to begin bridging a gap between the township and the community that we are here to represent. And service numbers are low, in comparison to the number of people that we could be serving. And this could be in part due to a lack of representation. The work force at all levels, in all the buildings, is predominately white. The only exceptions are community elected officials and then two hires here in this building. Until recently, we didn't even have that. Employees four brown representation for our community that we so desperately needed. So we all walked into this. We didn't create this or set this up; we walked into this. But we need equal and fair representation for our black residents as well, and on that point, requiring Spanish for a new hire in general assistance for a need that is already met we have four full time employees in this building that all speak fluid Spanish. If we do not have a full time representative from the black community, we are alienating people who need the resources we provide. Residents see this. Residents notice this. Residents feel this lack of representation. So I'm challenging whomever the powers are that be, to hire, we already have four Spanish speaking folks fulltime in this building, I would really like to see some representation for the black community here. Thank you for listening."

as helping her. She asked the board to not take thing lightly. The general assistance is there not just for the homeless but others who are threatened to be kicked out of their houses. She said she appreciated the board but hoped that they could learn from the past. She said you can always learn from the past and there were people who really cared. She cautioned to be sensitive to people who come in for help. When people come they have to humble themselves. The township is the last resort for them. She asked that they take that into consideration and when people do come treat them like a human being. That it isn't about the black community but how they have pride in the community and they don't like handouts. So keep that in consideration when you make those decisions of who you are making those decisions for. A roll call vote was taken⁹. The Oct 12th, 2021 meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Morales, Town Clerk



⁹ Roll call vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Escutia, Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).